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WOOD, RUTH K. *The Tourist's Spain and Portugal*. Pp. xvi, 357. Price, \$1.25. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1913.

Not a Baedeker and yet not a travel book this lies half between the two. The descriptions are well written, but the mechanics of the journey and an anxiety to omit mention of none of the "liens" of each city make the style at times labored. The instructions are not detailed enough to allow the traveler to dispense with his guide book. The chapters on Portugal contain much information not found in the usual tourists' manual.

## REVIEWS

ADAMS, BROOKS. *The Theory of Social Revolutions*. Pp. vii, 240. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

The mind of the complacent lawyer who holds the traditional attitude toward legal interpretation will receive something of a shock upon reading this book. The author is not temperamentally a sensationalist and with a legal training and practice covering more than twenty-five years we have reason to regard his utterances as the result of deep conviction. A casual reading of the book confirms this supposition. His studies have not been confined to the mere technique of legal procedure and the perusal of precedents, but have gone deeply into the social, political and economic forces which shape public opinion and mould law. The present volume is an exposition of the conclusions which are the product of these experiences. But the conclusions are not presented without an exhibit of the material upon which they are based. In Chapter I he discusses what he terms the collapse of capitalistic government which he regards inevitable as the result of the establishment of a new equilibrium. Capital has assumed sovereign power without accepting responsibility. The day of calling capital to account has arrived. Chapter II discusses the limitations of the judicial function and Chapter III American courts as legislative chambers. The assumption of legislative functions on the part of the judiciary uniformly has been followed by extension of authority over the courts by constitutional amendment and other methods. The social equilibrium, Chapter IV, is the force which determines where sovereignty resides and this is illustrated by an appeal to history, especially the events of the French Revolution.

Political courts are discussed in Chapter V and are portrayed as the inevitable precursors of revolution. "During the Reign of Terror, France had her fill of political tribunals."

The concluding chapter on inferences is constructive and logical on the basis of the premise laid down in the previous chapters. Civilizations have broken down through administrative difficulties. "The rise of a new governing class is always synonymous with a social revolution and a redistribution of property." The judicial recall he regards "as revolutionary in essence as were the methods used during the Terror," and would convert the courts into political tribunals and "a political court is not properly a court at all, but an administrative board whose function is to work the will of the dominant faction for the time being. Thus, a political court becomes the most formid-

able of all engines for the destruction of its creators the instant the social equilibrium shifts." The remedy lies in an untrammelled and independent judiciary. Since we are not traveling in that direction, the inference is clear.

Many readers will hardly agree with the premises and hence will object to the conclusions. But we have here a thought-provoking work and one well worth pondering in the light of contemporary facts.

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ALEXINSKY, GREGOR. *Modern Russia*. (Trans. by Bernard Miall.) Pp. 361.

Price, \$3.75. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1913.

Though not a systematic discussion of the Russia of our time, this book contains much material of value to the students of contemporary institutions. The author's experience as a member of the Duma gives him intimate knowledge of its workings, or rather of its powerlessness to do creative work, and his access to material in Russia opens to him fields closed to most western European writers. The chief criticism of the style is the author's tendency to discursive language. Pages of concrete facts, which furnish excellent pictures of phases of Russian economic and political life are followed by others which are indefinite or unrelated to the subject discussed. The volume is far from the standard of Palme's *Russische Verfassung* or Chasles' *Le Parlement Russe*, neither does it have the solidity of Milyoukov's *Russia and Its Crisis*. On the other hand, it is much more easily read than any of these and will probably familiarize more people with the general lines of Russian national development, its economics and its governmental organization.

Four chapters on the physiography and history of Russia introduce the discussion of modern conditions. The treatment of the latter shows great confidence in the potentialities of the country and its people and marked pessimism as to the present outlook. Three features of Russian life limit the realization of the nation's proper development. Economic interests are in the hands of a comparatively small group bent on keeping things as they are and reaping the greatest possible immediate profit. The large landholders squeeze from the peasant the last kopeck beyond the barest existence. Politics are controlled by the same group. The Duma is a farce. Indeed though the people were fired with the hope that the first and second Dumas might accomplish something to ameliorate conditions they have now lost interest in the meetings.

The result of the control of politics and economics by the reactionaries is reflected in bad social conditions. The chapters dealing with these subjects are the best in the book. Sanitary conditions are deplorable, over 80 per cent of the people are illiterate. Social conditions have hardly progressed farther than the feudal state, personal morality is held in light esteem, the police system contributes to disorder and the system of taxation discourages enterprise.

In this dark picture the only hopeful features are the work done by the Zemstvos in the development of local self-government and the gradual awakening of the wealthy classes to the backward condition of their fatherland.